

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS MAY 15-31 / PART 2

5/16/2012

GAS COSTS FALL, GIVING HOPE FOR ECONOMY

VO: 46

April consumer prices were flat, and sales of cars, furniture, electronics and restaurant food rose. Consumer prices were flat in April, the Labor Department reported on Tuesday, largely because of a decline in gas prices. Cheaper gas may be combining with steady job growth to increase spending on more expensive items. Sales of autos, furniture and electronics all rose in April. And Americans spent more at restaurants and bars, generally a sign of confidence in the economy. "Consumer spending looks to have started the second quarter on a solid footing," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics.

FARMWORKER-SEX ABUSE

VO: 25

A new report says female immigrant farmworkers in the U.S. are commonly subject to sexual harassment and assault, in part because their immigration status makes them fearful of reporting an offender, particularly an employer. The report by Human Rights Watch included dozens of interviews with farmworkers, attorneys and advocates in seven states. The organization calls for laws to protect the workers, who "see these abuses as an unavoidable condition of agricultural work." An estimated 630,000 of the 3 million people who perform farm work are female. The study released Wednesday mirrors two previous reports that focused on California. A spokesman for the California Farm Bureau Federation says sexual harassment is a universal problem not confined to the agricultural industry, which is why laws were enacted to prohibit it.

TSA FAILS TO REPORT, TRACK SECURITY BREACHES

VO: 30

The Transportation Security Administration is not adequately reporting, tracking and fixing airport security breaches. That's the conclusion of a recent report by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general. New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg requested the study after a series of security breaches at Newark International. One of the incidents included a passenger with a knife bypassing TSA screeners. Another breach included passengers walking around security checkpoints. Congress is scheduled to convene a hearing into the new report Wednesday.

T-MOBILE CUTTING MORE JOBS, PLANS MORE CHANGES

VO: 26

T-Mobile USA will pare 900 jobs, its second round of cuts in two months, following 10 consecutive quarters of contract user losses, even as some rivals are boosting their customer rolls. T-Mobile, with about 36,000 employees, in March said it would trim 1,900 jobs and close seven call centers to help preserve funds for a \$4 billion network upgrade to a high-speed mobile broadband network known as 4G LTE. Bellevue, Wash.-based T-Mobile lost 510,000 of the lucrative contract users last quarter, which it said was partly due to it not yet offering the Apple Inc. (NASDAQ:AAPL) iPhone.

CREDIT CARDS-LATE PAYMENTS

VO: 24

Fewer people are way overdue on their credit card payments in the U.S. The credit reporting agency TransUnion says the rate of payments 90 days overdue or longer dipped in the first three months of the year to .73 percent. That's down from .78 percent for the fourth quarter of last year.

KIDS IN HOSPITALS

VO: 26

The number of kids treated in emergency rooms after swallowing batteries -- or lodging them in their noses and ears -- has almost doubled over the past 20 years, a new study suggests. Most of those ER trips are due to button batteries, coin-shaped batteries that have become ubiquitous in toys, remote controls and hearing aids and represent a shiny temptation to curious toddlers. Lundbeck says data supports H2 anti-depressant filing

HIGHER EDUCATION LINKED TO LONGER LIFE, CDC REPORT SHOWS

VO: 23

For instance, people who have a bachelor's degree or higher live about nine years longer than those who don't graduate from high school, according to an annual report, out today, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. Some of the health data reached back a decade or more. Gina Lundberg, a preventive cardiologist in Atlanta, says a shorter life expectancy among less-educated people has been consistent for the last few decades. The study found that in 2010, 31% of adults ages 25 to 64 with a high school diploma or less were currently smoking, compared with 24% of those who had some college and 9% with a bachelor's degree.

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5/17/2012

ALABAMA LAW

VO: 36

Alabama's governor on Thursday called in lawmakers for a special session in part to further explore changes to the state's anti-illegal immigration law, considered the country's toughest. The day before, lawmakers had passed a bill, HB 658, which proposed changes to the state immigration law, which is currently being challenged in federal court. Rather than sign it into law or veto it, Gov. Robert Bentley summoned lawmakers to take up the bill one more time. Supporters of HB 658 said the changes would make the law better, but critics quickly pounced on it, saying it would make it even worse. The new bill addresses unintended consequences of the state's immigration law, including clarifying the types of documents that can serve as a form of official identification, but does not address parts of the law that are at issue in federal courts. Bentley wants to "have an opportunity to further clarify the law," a news release from his office said. As passed by the state House and Senate, HB 658 appears to be an attempt to mollify some of the bill's critics. But it fell short, said Justin Cox of the ACLU's Immigrant Rights Project. Religious leaders complained that their missionary work could be criminalized if the recipients of their aid were undocumented immigrants, and one version of the new bill included an exception for this. But the final bill barely had anything resembling an exception, Cox said. "I think it was just window-dressing," he said. The new bill also eased the most strict measures against subcontractors who unknowingly hire illegal immigrants. Critics, including the American Civil Liberties Union, said the biggest problem of the new bill was the requirement that the Alabama Department of Homeland Security post online the names of illegal immigrants that appear in state courts. The ACLU criticized the new bill for not tackling any of the most contentious parts of the law whose constitutionality is being challenged. Bentley's call for further discussion on the law cites his desire to see some of the controversial parts of the law modified. One portion of the law that is currently enjoined calls for schools to collect information on the immigration status of their students.

5/18/2012

ALABAMA IMMIGRATION LAW LATEST

VO: 25

The passage of the bill on Wednesday, as protesters sang outside the legislative chambers and in several cases were dragged away in handcuffs, was a victory for the most determined supporters of the original law. An earlier version of the bill had dropped some of the more controversial provisions of the law, considered the strictest and most sweeping in the country. But the bill that passed preserved most of the original law and also added new sections, including one requiring the state to publish information, including the person's name, about every case in which an illegal immigrant appeared in court for any violation of state law. Mr. Bentley, a Republican, did not sign it, however, and instead called the special session. But judging from the bills filed on Thursday, the first day of the session, agreement may still be hard-fought. The law remains generally popular in the state but has drawn criticism from civil rights groups, church leaders, local law enforcement officials, state business groups and some Alabama residents who complain of the new rules governing routine transactions. The Justice Department has sued Alabama, arguing that the law is unconstitutional, and enforcement of some sections has been temporarily suspended by federal courts. Most of the law is now before the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, which is holding off its ruling until the fate of Arizona's immigration

enforcement law is decided by the Supreme Court. The justices are expected to issue a ruling by the end of June.

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05/21/2012

TROPICAL STORM ALBERTO

VO: 28

Tropical Storm Alberto hovered off the South Carolina and Georgia coasts on Sunday, canceling tourist cruises, producing showers and serving as a reminder that the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season is just around the corner. The first storm of the season that officially begins June 1 was not expected to approach landfall on the Carolinas' coast, but it prompted a brief tropical storm watch and forecasters warned that it could produce high winds, heavy surf, rip currents and scattered rain across the region. "It's making the closest approach to the coastline now, so the impacts shouldn't be much different than what we are already seeing," said Jonathan Lamb, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Charleston, S.C., on Sunday. At 11 p.m. EDT, the National Hurricane Center said Alberto was about 160 miles (257 kilometers) south of Charleston. Maximum sustained winds had decreased to 40 mph (64 kph). It was moving southward at 5 mph (8 kph), but forecasters expected it to turn toward the east and head out to sea sometime Monday.

MISSISSIPPI PRISON RIOT

VO: 20

A guard was killed and, at one point, hostages were taken during a riot at a Mississippi prison that holds illegal immigrants, authorities said. The Sunday riot at the privately run Adams County Correctional Center in southwest Mississippi began around 2:40 p.m. CDT and involved dozens of inmates before it was brought under control that night. Adams County Sheriff Chuck Mayfield told the Natchez Democrat that 15 employees were freed at one time during the uprising by opening a fence and protecting the route with guns. The sheriff said in a statement early Monday that there were at least two dozen hostages being held at one time. Adams County Coroner James Lee confirmed that a guard died, but said he could not provide any other details until the correctional officer's family was notified. In addition to the guard who was killed, five other correctional officers and three inmates were injured. Emilee Beach, a spokeswoman at the Adams County Correctional Center said that after the disturbance was brought under control Sunday night, inmates were being searched and sent back to their cells.

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05/22/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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05/23/2012

IMMIGRATION ELECTRONIC BENEFITS SYSTEM

ANA MARIA VARGAS - DALLAS, TEXAS

PKG: 1:43

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today launched the first phase of its electronic immigration benefits system, known as USCIS ELIS. The system has been created to modernize the process for filing and adjudicating immigration benefits. "Today marks a significant milestone in our agency's history," said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. "We have launched the foundation for the web-based future of our agency and our immigration benefits system. USCIS ELIS will transform how we interact with our customers and how we manage the 6-7 million applications we receive each year." This initial launch brings the agency closer to realizing the future of immigration services. Beginning today, individuals can establish a USCIS ELIS account and apply online to extend or change their nonimmigrant status for certain visa types. Eligible individuals include foreign citizens who travel to the United States temporarily to study, conduct business, receive medical treatment, or visit on vacation. USCIS ELIS will also enable USCIS officers to review and adjudicate online filings from multiple agency locations across the country. Historically, USCIS customers have had to apply for most benefits by mail and USCIS employees then review paper files and ship documents between offices to complete their adjudication. Today's launch signifies an important step forward and is the first of several releases. Future releases will add form types and functions to the system, gradually expanding to cover filing and adjudication for all USCIS immigration benefits. This important transition for America's immigration benefits system will take time and continued dedication to fully implement. Following this first release, USCIS anticipates making adjustments and improvements in response to user feedback. This process will enable USCIS to continually enhance the user experience for both customers and USCIS employees. It will also allow the agency to smooth the transition to electronic filing over time, mindful of those individuals without computer access and the agency's commitment to serve our diverse customer base.

JAILS ABUSE ACT

VO: 22

Corrections officers at the only women's prison in Alabama regularly sexually harass, abuse and even rape female inmates with few consequences, according to a new report by a civil rights organization. Numerous female inmates at Tutwiler Prison for Women in Wetumpka, Ala., reported becoming pregnant after being raped by male correctional staff over the past five years, said Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), which investigated the allegations. Other sexual misconduct, including pervasive harassment, unwanted touching and invasion of privacy, is commonplace, Stevenson said. Consensual sex between staff and inmates is strictly forbidden by prison regulations, but is also a

regular occurrence, with staff requiring women to perform sexual favors in exchange for smuggled contraband goods, the report found.

HP TO ANNOUNCE MASS LAYOFFS

VO: 26

Hewlett-packard will announce another round of substantial job cuts wednesday afternoon in an effort to streamline its teetering pc and services businesses, a source familiar with the plans told *fortune*. The layoffs will be "in the ballpark" of 25,000 workers, the source said, which would amount to about 7% of hp's global workforce. The nation's largest technology company by revenue currently employs 349,600 people worldwide, according to its latest regulatory filing.

USA-CHILDREN/GRANDFAMILIES

:23

Howard Dubowitz, a Maryland pediatrician and researcher who specializes in child protection issues, knows how hard it can be to raise other people's children. Over the years while talking with grandparents and others who take on the role of guardian when parents struggle, "my heart went out to them - they were trying so hard," said Dubowitz, trained to help treat children who have been abused or neglected. The number of youth living with relatives or friends instead of their parents has risen nearly 18 percent in the past decade as a growing number of grandparents take on caring for their grandchildren, an analysis of government data shows. More than 2.7 million children and teenagers have such "grandfamilies" or other alternative living arrangements, up from 2.2 million in 2000, according to a review of the u.S. Census bureau's latest 2010 data by the Annie E. Casey foundation released on wednesday.

FLU SHOT DURING PREGNANCY BENEFITS BABY

VO: 21

A new study suggests moms getting an h1n1 flu vaccine during pregnancy can help their babies. Researchers in Canada used a database to examine births during the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic. They found that vaccinated mothers were less likely to have a "small for gestational age" infant. They also found these women were less likely to have a preterm birth. Researchers say the findings are very helpful in the discussion on maternal vaccinations. Still, they say their information needs to be confirmed in future studies. This study is in june's issue of the american journal of public health.

WEIGHT LOSS REDUCES BREAST CANCER RISK

VO: 26

Even a moderate amount of weight loss can significantly reduce levels of circulating estrogens that are associated with an increased risk of breast cancer, according to a study by researchers at Fred

Hutchinson cancer research center - the first randomized, controlled clinical trial to test the effects of weight loss on sex hormones in overweight and obese postmenopausal women, a group at elevated risk for breast cancer.

DEATH RATE FOR DIABETES SHOWS BIG DROP

VO: 26

There is encouraging news for people who suffer from diabetes. Researchers at the centers for disease control say the death rate for people with diabetes dropped significantly from 1997 to 2006. Deaths from heart disease and stroke related to diabetes dropped 40-percent -- while overall deaths of diabetics declined by 23-percent. The C-D-C says healthier lifestyles and better disease management get credit for the improvement. However, diabetes is still the seventh leading cause of death.

CALIFORNIA AIRLINES SEATS FEE

VO: 24

Families that pay together, won't necessarily stay together on airline flights this summer! Airlines have come up with a *new* charge -- and it means more money out of your pocket to sit next to your own family member! These days some airlines are making it harder for families to sit next to each other without paying extra for certain seats.

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05/24/2012

FOOD STAMP FRAUD

VO: 23

Food stamp recipients are ripping off the government for millions of dollars by illegally selling their benefit cards for cash sometimes even in the open, on ebay or craigslist and then asking the government for replacement cards. The agriculture department wants to curb the practice by giving states more power to investigate people who repeatedly claim to lose their benefit cards. It is proposing new rules thursday that would allow states to demand formal explanations from people who seek replacement cards more than three times a year. Those who don't comply can be denied further cards."up to this point, the state's hands have been tied unless they absolutely suspected fraudulent activity," said kevin con cannon, the department's undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services. Overall, food stamp fraud costs taxpayers about \$750 million a year, or 1 percent of the \$75 billion program that makes up the bulk of the department's total budget for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

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05/25/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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05/28/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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05/29/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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05/30/2012

STUDENT CARD FEES

VO:29

A public interest group says as many as 900 colleges are pushing students into using payment cards that carry hefty costs, sometimes even to access students' financial aid money. The U.S. Public Interest Research Group Higher Education Fund says in a report published Wednesday that colleges and banks often make secretive deals allowing them to rake in millions from the fees. The report says some of the fees appear to violate federal law. The report says more than 9 million people, or two out of five U.S. higher-education students, attend schools that have deals with financial companies. The fees add to the mountain of debt many higher-education students must take on. U.S. student debt tops \$1 trillion, and has surpassed credit cards as the biggest source of unsecured debt.

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05/31/2012

FORECLOSURES RATES

VO: 25

Average U.S. rates on 30-year and 15-year fixed mortgages dropped to record lows again this week, with the 15-year loan dipping below 3 percent for the first time ever. Low rates have helped brighten the outlook for home sales this year. Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac says the average rate on the 30-year loan fell to 3.75 percent. That's down from 3.78 percent last week and the lowest since long-term mortgages began in the 1950s. The 15-year mortgage, a popular refinancing option, slipped to 2.97 percent. That's down from 3.04 percent last week. Rates on the 30-year loan have been below 4 percent since early December. The low rates are a key reason the housing industry is showing modest signs of a recovery this year.

=====END OF REPORT=====